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**Subject:** FW: Budget update  
[scott-pruitt-qfr-responses-01.18.2017.pdf](#)

Note responses to Gillibrand questions about LIS on pp. 97-98.

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**Subject:** FYI: Budget update

Greg attached Pruitt's responses to QFRs from his confirmation hearing. I skimmed through the questions and flagged items that may interest OWOW.

Also see Greg's budget summary below my e-mail.

Kristie

Booker 21-30, pages 6-10: Reducing Phosphorus Pollution in Illinois River Watershed

Cardin 16-26 and 90, pages 16-19 and 36: Chesapeake Bay TMDL

Cardin 31, page 21: Climate change and algal blooms

Cardin 43, page 23: 2010 consent order with Making Money Having Fund coal combustion waste mine fill operator

Cardin 47-52, pages 24-27: WOUS

Cardin 53-54, page 27: water pollution in OK

Cardin 55, page 27: Stream Buffer Rule

Carper 73, page 62: Reducing NPS pollution

Carper 74, pages 62-63: WOUS

Carper 77, page 64: Funding for TMDL Program

Carper 97-98, pages 71-72: MTM

Carper 146, page 86: Federal jurisdiction over wetlands

Gillibrand 29-30, pages 97-98: LIS disposal site

Gillibrand 31-32, page 98: LIS Office and Geo. Program

Markey 22, page 120: Protecting our oceans

Merkley 26-27, page 149: WOUS

Merkley 35-36, page 151: Tribal rights include 401 certifications and CWA

Merkley 54, page 157: Columbia River/WIIN Act

Sanders 26-28, pages 166-168: Lake Champlain and VT TMDL

Sanders 51-52, page 176: WOUS

Sanders 95, page 185: Lake Champlain and Green Infrastructure

Sullivan 1-2, pages 195-196: Alaska's seafood industry and clean water

Sullivan 4, page 196: 404 veto

Whitehouse 1-3, page 197: NEPs CRE

Whitehouse 4, page 197: Marine Debris

Whitehouse 6-8, page 198-199: Ocean acidification

Whitehouse 9, page 199: Protecting shellfish

Whitehouse 58-60, pages 215-216: WOUS and 404

Whitehouse 72-73, page 219-220: Improving WQ

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**Subject:** Budget update

### **Pruitt reveals his views in responses to questions for the record**

It might be worth your time to search for relevant key words for your water program areas in the 242 pages of responses to questions from Senate EPW members attached. The following water related topics were covered: New WIIN/WRDA authorities, SRFs, Integrated Planning, Green Infrastructure, TMDLs, water quality standards, 106 grants, monitoring and assessment, PFOA, NPDES permit backlog, CWSRF formula, making CAFO data being made public, Columbia River, Lake Champlain, State Nutrient Framework, Tax-exempt bonds, Lead.

### **Infrastructure likely towards the bottom of the congressional GOP to-do list**

South Dakota Sen. John Thune, chairman of the GOP conference, said at the party's policy retreat in Philadelphia last week it's too early to say when or even "if" Republicans will tackle an infrastructure bill this year. He added that "obviously, it'd have to be funded."

The GOP has "a very focused agenda of things that we want to get done in the next 200 days," Thune told reporters. "And how infrastructure plays into that, we're not sure yet. It could hitch a ride perhaps on some tax reform bill."

### **Trump may prefer "fix-it-first" approach to infrastructure**

The president suggested during his remarks to Republicans in Philadelphia that he'd prefer the type of "fix-it-first" approach to prioritizing infrastructure spending that Obama once championed.

"We will build new roads and highways and tunnels and airports and railways across the nation," the president told GOP lawmakers. "We will fix our existing product before we build anything

brand new, however.”

Trump's advisers have backed the idea of paying for an infrastructure plan with a one-time tax break for corporations bringing overseas profits into the U.S., an idea Democrats also support despite some wariness among Republicans. But Schumer told reporters this week that a repatriation holiday, as it's known, is "not going to be close to enough to funding what we need, even if it were included."

### **The Democrats water infrastructure plan**

The 11 page "[A Blueprint to Rebuild America's Infrastructure](#)" sites \$655 billion in needs and calls for 110 billion to repair water and sewer. Here is the relevant water paragraph from the plan:

"We will make major investments in the Clean Water and the Drinking Water state revolving funds, and USDA water programs, to address the growing backlog of water and sewer projects. We will also give States new flexibility to provide communities with more grants rather than loans. This will unlock thousands of new water and sewer infrastructure projects without burdening local ratepayers. In addition, we propose decreasing the local matching funds required of states and local governments who simply cannot afford to take on more debt. Finally, we will increase funding for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program that provides federal loans to support large-scale water infrastructure projects with national and regional significance."

All of these infrastructure plans will mean nothing unless agreement can be reached on how to pay for it.

### **The President signs a memo on American Iron and Steel**

The president asked the Commerce Department to write a plan for using U.S. steel "to the maximum extent possible.". See the Memo [here](#).

### **House T&I Infrastructure hearing Feb. 1**

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold its first hearing of the 115th Congress on the "challenges facing our Nation's infrastructure and a vision for building a 21st century infrastructure for America" on Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 10 a.m. in 2167 Rayburn. Witnesses: Frederick Smith, CEO of FedEx Corp.; David MacLennan, CEO of Cargill Inc.; Ludwig Willis, CEO of BMW of North America; Mary Andringa, Vermeer Corp. chairwoman; and Richard Trumka, president of the AFL-CIO.

### **Pruitt confirmation vote in Committee this week**

Senate Environment and Public Works votes Wednesday on the nomination of Scott Pruitt to head the Environmental Protection Agency (10:45 a.m., 406 Dirksen).